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ABSTRACT

This biennial report describes International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) events and activities in the during 1989-90. They are treated under the following headings: (1) Managerial Aspects, including membership and organization, fund raising, regional offices, publications, and conferences; (2) Divisions, Sections, Round Tables, focusing on professional groups and including projects, integration of IFLA's professional work, guidance to officers, new groups, and future issues; (3) Core Programmes, including Universal Bibliographic Control and International MARC, Universal Availability of Publications, Preservation and Conservation, Universal Dataflow and Telecommunications, and Advancement of Librarianship in the Third World (ALP); (4) ALP, including concept, objectives, orientation, work plan, and goals; (5) Finances, including accounts, budget forecasts for 1991-92, and graphs of 1990 income and expenditures; and (6) IFLA's Long Term Policy, including the role of libraries, general policy issues, educational and social roles, access to information, enhancement of the library profession, and new information technology. (MES)

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TRENDS

1989-1990

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July 1991

TRENDS 1989-1990

Reports to the Council 1991

With an outlook to policy and activities in the years 1991 to 1993

Compiled by the Secretary General
Paul Nauta

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IFLA's Long Term Policy

PREFACE

It is my pleasure to introduce to you a new issue of **Trends**, a biennial IFLA publication which reports to Council on events and activities of the previous two years.

In the past, **Trends** was more or less a private enterprise of the IFLA Secretary General, the content of which was not always directly based upon the policy developed by the IFLA Steering Bodies.

During my missions abroad I learned that **Trends** is used worldwide, particularly in the Third World, as a guidebook for development and policy on matters of international librarianship and information services.

Since the Executive Board (EB) has recently formulated IFLA's Long Term Policy for the '90s and submitted it to Council 1991, **Trends** should be more closely related to this EB document and, therefore, should also include the reports to Council of the other Steering Bodies' officials.

This is the reason for my broadening the content of **Trends**, one of IFLA's most widely distributed and read brochures. I hope that you like this new approach.

For more detailed information on IFLA's activities and events during 1989 and 1990, please see

- the Annual Reports published in *IFLA Journal* 16(2):243-277(1990) and 17(2):147-187(1991)

- *IFLA Annual* 1989 and *IFLA Annual* 1990, issued as separate publications, and available from IFLA Headquarters.

Finally, I appreciate the cooperation of the contributors to this publication and also the assistance of Carol Henry, IFLA Executive Officer, who took care of the editorial aspects, and Sophie Felföldi and Theresa Stanton who prepared the camera-ready copy and arranged the printing.

Paul Nauta,
Secretary General of IFLA

MANAGERIAL ASPECTS

Report to Council 1991 by Paul Nauta, Secretary General

Introduction

Thanks to an active, innovative Executive Board, Professional Board and Programme Management Committee and their excellent cooperation with IFLA Headquarters staff, IFLA progressed very well during the previous two years: it prepared itself for the '90s in view of IFLA's potential tasks in the first decade of the 21st century; at the same time it continued its ongoing activities in cooperation with other NGOs in the information sector, whenever possible.

This combination of consolidation of IFLA's present position on the one hand, and preparation of its future role in the library and information profession on the other, has resulted in some policy documents, the most important of which are IFLA's Long Term Policy and changes in the present IFLA structure.
As the contents of these documents are already on the Council Agenda elsewhere, and because I have tried to avoid any duplication with other speakers at both this Council Meeting and the Open Forums during the conference week, I have highlighted items not covered elsewhere.

Membership and Organization

Statistics selected from the respective IFLA Annual Reports are listed below:

Item/Year	1990	1989	1988
Members/Affiliates	1305	1243	1265
Countries covered	132	129	123
Industrialized	46	45	41
Developing	86	84	82
Permanent Professional Groups	56	56	55
Staff under Contract (in FTE)			
Headquarters	6.5	5	5
Core programmes	4	5	5
Consultancy (in FTE)	0.2	0.2	0.2

Generally speaking, the figures over the previous three years have remained relatively stable, while the membership and affiliation in 1990 have increased by 3.2% since 1988 and 5% since 1989.

However, the financial constraints of the IFLA members are also growing, at least within some sectors. This will certainly have a negative impact on the statistics of 1991, as some members can no longer afford payment of the IFLA annual dues.

The staff of IFLA Headquarters temporarily increased by 30% in 1990 through the appointment of the new, full-time Professional Coordinator, Winston Roberts, as from 1 April 1990 and the part-time (20 hours a week) Publications Assistant, Theresa Stanton, per 1 May 1990. Through the untimely death of the Deputy Secretary General, Guust van Wesemael, on 5 June 1991, the present FTE (full-time equivalent) of the IFLA Headquarters staff is 5.5, thus resulting in an increase of 10% since 1988.

Fund Raising

As the subject "Finances" is extensively dealt with elsewhere in this brochure, allow me to underline only a few aspects.

First, I wish to mention the organizations, agencies and firms which contribute funds to IFLA on a regular basis for projects, seminars and study grants: Unesco, US National Commission on Library and Information Science (NCLIS), Council on Library Resources (CLR), Deutsche Stiftung für Internationale Entwicklung (DSE), Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA), Wilson Foundation, Martinus Nijhoff International and Faxon.

Second, I wish to indicate that several agencies and firms regularly sponsor certain aspects of the IFLA Conferences. These sponsors are either listed in the Conference Programme or in IFLA Express.

Third, I wish to thank IFLA's new category of Sustaining Affiliates for their contribution, which has been used for Third World activities covered in the general IFLA budget. The IFLA Sustaining Affiliates are: K.G. Saur Verlag, Apple Computers Inc., Blackwell's Ltd. and National Discography Ltd., UK. It is difficult to attract new Affiliates to this category. Most companies and firms seem to prefer to directly sponsor specific activities, either on a regular or irregular basis, rather than to contribute to more generally allocated funds.

Fourth, I wish to repeat what I stated in Council at Paris in 1989: that it is my strong conviction that really good projects with the right people to carry them out will attract the necessary funds. Developing relevant projects is obviously more complicated than finding the financial sources.

Finally, I must mention that IFLA Headquarters and Executive Board members are continuing to search for sponsors for short-term study grants for young information professionals, and that discussions will be held during the Moscow Conference with several potential sponsors. I am pleased to report that in April 1989 the idea of establishing a permanent grant in library and information science for Arab specialists was raised by Dr Shawky Salem with both IFLA and FID. He offered to provide for the funding of this new grant. The grant was formally established in May 1991 when the 3 parties (FID, IFLA and Dr Salem) signed the agreement. The grant will be named after the sponsor and awarded annually.

Regional Offices

The most characteristic description of the IFLA Regional Offices is that they represent IFLA Headquarters in the three Third World regions. Moreover, they cooperate closely with the Regional Sections on the development and cooperation of librarianship in the respective regions.

During the previous two years the activities of these Regional Offices have been intensified and expanded through the relations with the International Focal Point of the IFLA Core Programme for the Advancement of Librarianship in the Third World (ALP) in Uppsala, Sweden. This certainly means an enrichment of the regional work. However, it also has consequences for the workload of the Regional Managers and the Officers of the Regional Standing Committees. The strengthening and professionalization of the Regional Offices is a matter of continuing concern, particularly in the light of restricted financial possibilities for the next two years.

For more details on the Advancement of Librarianship in the Third World, see Birgitta Bergdahl's contribution to this brochure.

Publications

On the initiative of the Secretary General, the Executive Board set up a Publications Committee at the end of 1989 to investigate IFLA's present publication policy and to develop strategies for the future in a new publishing programme. The Committee identified five objectives for such a programme:

- IFLA exists to provide services to its members. Publishing is one of the major services.

- As a professional organization IFLA needs to provide channels for its members to communicate with each other via reports, newsletters, brochures, flyers, etc.

- Although well-known IFLA still needs to take every opportunity to publicize its existence globally and to continue to make itself known to the library and information profession and their services.

- As a professional organization IFLA has the responsibility to contribute to the body of professional knowledge and the literature supporting it.

- IFLA has to maximize the opportunities to earn income. Therefore, the publishing programme ought to contribute to the income of the Federation.

For the terms of reference of the Publications Committee, see *IFLA Journal* 17(1):80-81(1991).

All IFLA's publications are listed in the biennial *IFLA Directory*, while new publications are regularly announced in *IFLA Journal*.

General Conferences

The annual conferences in Paris (1989) and Stockholm (1990) brought together many librarians and information specialists: not only participants in IFLA's professional groups and representatives from the IFLA membership attended the conferences, but also many professionals from outside the IFLA circle. From the professional as well as the financial point of view, an extra dimension was given to the events by the exhibitions, which were a feature of both conferences.

The 55th General Conference in Paris 19-26 August 1989, registered more than 1541 fully-paid participants (not including accompanying persons, exhibitors, day registrations, volunteers and invited guests) for discussions on the theme: "Libraries and Information in Yesterday's, Today's and Tomorrow's Economy". Expenses were covered by registration fees (approx. 33%), gifts from sponsors and contributions from exhibitors (approx. 33%) and funds from the French Government (approx. 33%).

The 56th General Conference in Stockholm, 18-24 August 1990, matched the success of "Paris": it counted almost 5000 people from 95 countries: 1660 delegates with 117 accompanying persons, 100 journalists, 200 day visitors, 300 volunteers, 510 persons working at 170 exhibition booths, and 2000 visitors to the exhibition. In the professional meetings the theme, "Libraries - Information for Knowledge", was greatly expanded to include cultural aspects of librarianship.

This year, we are here for the 57th General Conference in Moscow, 18-24 August. It is expected that approx. 500 delegates from the Republics in the USSR will participate in an IFLA Conference for the first time. This means that the profession in the USSR will become more directly and extensively involved in international librarianship than was possible ever before. Theme: "Libraries and Culture: Their Relationship".

Future Conferences

1992: Delhi, India, 30 August - 5 September
Theme: "Library and Information Policy Perspectives"
1993: Barcelona, Spain, 22-28 August
Theme: "The Universal Library: Libraries as Centres For the Global Availability of Information"
1994: Habana, Cuba, 21-27 August (provisional)
Theme: "Libraries for the Development of Society"
1995: Istanbul, Turkey
1996: Beijing, China
1997: Switzerland?
1998: Canada?
1999: Thailand?

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DIVISIONS, SECTIONS, ROUND TABLES

Report by Winston Roberts, Professional Coordinator and Secretary of the Professional Board

Introduction

The end of IFLA's Medium-Term Programme 1986-1991 has provided the opportunity to look back at the achievements of the Federation's professional activities over those 5 years. This has been covered in a major paper by Ernst Kohl, presented at the Moscow Conference and destined to be published in *IFLA Journal*.

This edition of IFLA Trends, however, provides the opportunity to comment briefly on the work supervised and coordinated by the Professional Board over the past two years of the present Board's term of office, and to look ahead to future trends in this work.

Other organizations (NGOs and international governmental agencies) increasingly view IFLA as a body with a good track record of successful completion of projects which really promote the attainment of its professional objectives. But successes in this area must not be taken for granted - they depend to a large extent on the dedication and commitment of a relatively small number of experts working with limited resources but with a positive attitude to international cooperation and with the full support of their employing institutions.

The question which always concerns the Professional Board is how to strengthen these efforts so that professional work is kept on target. The PB will consider this question with reference to the practical objectives expressed in the new Medium-Term Programme 1992-97, and within the framework of the new statement of IFLA's Long-Term Policy; but the PB does so in the knowledge that the resources available to IFLA are not likely to increase.

Projects

The PB continues to emphasize that project proposals submitted by Sections and Round Tables must have prior approval of the relevant Divisional Coordinating Board; and the PB looks favorably on projects having the support of more than one professional group (whether Section, Round Table, or Core Programme), of wide international relevance, and according to the objectives of the Medium-Term Programme.

The PB has noted that so many projects were approved in the past that it has become difficult to keep track of them all and determine if real progress is being made in each case. Therefore, to simplify this monitoring, the PB decided that as from 1991 a lump sum will be given to the Coordinating Boards of Divisions for the discretionary funding of smaller projects. The PB itself will concentrate on larger projects with a more cooperative emphasis, while also restricting the number of projects that may be carried out concurrently by individual professional groups. To clarify financial management of professional projects, new reporting arrangements will come into operation in 1991.

The PB is also keen to ensure that the results of projects are visible and disseminated in published form whenever possible. The projects which have (or will shortly) result in a publication are far too numerous to list here; but a few examples will indicate the range of

interest: the Indigenous Publishing Project in Zimbabwe, the new revised Art Librarian's Glossary, the 1989 Seminar on "La Presse de la Liberté", the 1991 Asian Seminar on Library Service to the Visually Impaired, and the Section on Cataloguing's "Guidelines for Subject Authority and Reference Entries".

As examples of successful large cooperative projects, one could cite the Malaysian Seminar on Maps, Spatial Data and Conservation, in Kuala Lumpur in May 1991 (sponsored by the Section on Geography and Map Libraries, the Section on Conservation and the PAC Core Programme's regional office in Australia); and the Latin American Seminar on Official Publications, in Mexico City in July 1991 (sponsored by the LAC Regional Section, the Section on Official Publications, and the ALP Core Programme).

Some projects which are originally research-based can later lead to seminars. One such project is the current project undertaken by the Round Table on the Management of Library Associations (RTMLA), to survey the status of the profession worldwide. The results of this will be the inspiration for the 1992 Pre-Session Seminar (theme: "The Status, Reputation and Image of the Library, Information Science and Documentation Profession"). This will consider, in the context of the developing world, policy issues connected with the management of professional associations, education and training, recognition by employers, equal opportunities, and social responsibility.

Integration of IFLA's Professional Work

Successive Professional Boards have felt that a better integration of all aspects of IFLA's professional work was essential to ensure that efforts and scarce resources are not duplicated or wasted. The present PB set up a Working Group on Professional Aspects of the Annual Conferences, which reported in 1991. Its conclusions confirmed the value of tighter organization of certain elements of the conference: quality control of papers, paper distribution methods, procedures for dealing with resolutions, organizing workshops, and planning the content of open meetings of professional groups.

The PB believes that the annual IFLA Conference represents almost the only opportunity for many members and officers to get together during the year. For this reason the PB closely examines the conference timetable to ensure that meetings can be scheduled during these few short days in such a way as to minimize conflicts and encourage progress with professional work.

Guidance to Officers

An especially important aspect of the professional work is guidance to officers of Sections and Round Tables. The PB has begun to issue a new series of Guidelines on such topics as: the preparation of professional resolutions - (the PB is determined to encourage members to submit professional resolutions on subjects of concern, and to take action on these), the organization of workshops and satellite meetings, and budgeting. Guidelines have also been issued on the preparation of Section publications (including newsletters), and the translation of these publications, since translation is vital for good communication both within and outside IFLA.

At conferences held in conjunction with Council meetings, orientation sessions will continue to be held, as will training sessions for new officers, as the first such training session in Paris (1989) proved so successful.

New Professional Groups

The structure of IFLA is complex and caters for many interests. Nevertheless, the PB from time to time receives requests to set up new groups to respond to new interests. These may start as PB Working Groups and later develop into Round Tables if it seems justifiable. Thus the WG on Management has become a Round Table, a proposal is being developed for a WG on Women's Issues in Librarianship, and a Round Table on User Education is being set up.

Future Professional Issues

What of future professional issues? While all the issues referred to above will continue to give IFLA work to do, it is possible to identify some particular development areas.

In view of the increasing international interest in broadening the scope of copyright protection, and also increasing interest in the subject by WIPO and Unesco (particularly concerning reprography and copyright in databases), IFLA must make the principles and objectives of the library profession more widely understood by publishers and database providers. The PB is setting up a Working Group to include IFLA officers knowledgeable about copyright, and invited experts.

IFLA must pursue its renewed efforts to develop and promote standards and normative texts, and in particular its own bibliographic standards, such as the UNIMARC format; and to engage in training in the use of these standards. Cooperation with the International Standards Organization and other relevant bodies will be essential.

The preservation of library and archive material (in print and new media) will continue to bring together IFLA, ICA and the other NGOs specializing in sound, film and television archives (IASA, FIAF and FIAT respectively). The NGOs will continue to receive support from Unesco as an aid to its own efforts to preserve the cultural heritage.

Renewed efforts will be made to improve professional skills and to run training courses for and with colleagues in the developing countries (with the help of IFLA Sections, the ALP Programme, Unesco and other international agencies). Particular efforts will be made to reach out to the Spanish-speaking countries.

IFLA will continue its activities in the promotion of literacy through library programmes, in cooperation with Unesco. IFLA will channel its efforts through the ALP Programme, the Division of Libraries Serving the General Public and the Division of Regional Activities.

CORE PROGRAMMES

Report of the Programme Management Committee to Council 1991 by Adam Wysocki, Chairman

Since my last report in 1989 to the IFLA Council in Paris, many major events occurred in the organization, development, management, support and financing of the IFLA Core Programmes, which I have the pleasure to bring to your attention.

I shall start with some general information on the Core Programmes' development.

According to the decision of the IFLA Executive Board at its November meeting in 1990, the supervision of the newly established ALP Core Programme has been transferred from the EB to the PMC, which now supervises 5 programmes, namely, UAP, UBCIM, PAC, UDT and ALP.

The location of the International Office for ALP is the University Library of Uppsala in Sweden. The location of the remaining International Offices of the Core Programmes is without change, except for that of UBCIM, which moved 1 April 1990 from the British Library in London to the Deutsche Bibliothek in Frankfurt am Main. We were also informed by the Librarian of Congress in the US that the International Focal Point for PAC would be hosted until the end of 1991 by the Library of Congress. IFLA is currently looking for a new host organization for the PAC Focal Point.

During the past 2 years the Core Programmes noted further important developments, and continued to be, together with activities of Sections and Divisions, the major professional force of the Federation despite the restricted funds available for the Programmes.

The work of the **UBCIM Programme**, as defined in the Programme objectives, has concentrated on the development of systems and standards for bibliographic control and promotion of the UNIMARC format.

The Programme has published, among other things, revised ISBDs for monographs, non-book materials and serials, and new standards for computer files, printed music, and antiquarian as well as an ISBD Manual.

Several other publications have been also prepared by the UBCIM Programme, such as the UNIMARC Format for Authorities, the 3rd edition of the *International Guide to MARC Databases and Services*, and *Management and Use of Name Authority Files*.

The Programme was active in training and research, organizing or co-organizing seminars on bibliographic records in Stockholm, and on bibliographic data conversion from CCF to UNIMARC and vice versa in Florence.

UBCIM continued to promote the UNIMARC format by developing guidelines and publishing the quarterly journal, *International Cataloguing and Bibliographic Control*.

The **UAP Programme** concentrated its attention on the existing barriers in availability of publications to ensure the widest possible access to published materials.

The Programme has undertaken, under Unesco auspices, an extensive study of the role of national libraries in the new international environment, and, in cooperation with the European Community, is examining the role of copyright on availability of publications.

The UAP Programme officers participated actively in international and national conferences, raising awareness of the principles of UAP and giving lectures informing on programme achievements.

The **PAC Programme** action was oriented towards the worldwide initiatives in preservation and conservation of library materials. In the past two years the programme expanded its regional structure in Asia and Oceania by setting up the regional centres in Tokyo at the National Diet Library and in Canberra at the National Library of Australia.

Having in view better coordination of regional and international work, the PAC International Office organized a first meeting of the Directors of Regional Centres in May 1991 in Washington DC.

A substantial achievement has been made by the Programme in sponsoring a symposium in 1989 on Managing the Preservation of Serial Literature, the proceedings of which will be published in 1991.

The PAC Programme, together with Unesco and ICA, prepared a series of Guidelines on different aspects of conservation and preservation and completed an audiovisual programme in Spanish and English on Disaster Preparedness. The Programme also participated actively with ICA in the organization of an international seminar on Research Needs in Preservation held in May this year at Columbia University.

The **UDT Programme** continued its efforts in the promotion of electronic data transfer between libraries and their users.

In 1989 UDT successfully accomplished a feasibility study on electronic international exchange of interlibrary loans between the National Library of Canada and the British Library. The results of this study will now be expanded to other libraries.

In 1990 the work of the Programme centred on 3 studies: 1) on developing a strategy to help libraries adopt OSI-based software; 2) on new technologies and standards that will effect document delivery procedures, and 3) on the potential use of the existing academic research networks to support bibliographic applications.

In 1991 the Programme started an investigation on the availability of packet-radio library networks for areas where the telecommunications infrastructure is not available.

The **ALP Programme** has started its operational activity in 1990, concentrating its efforts on 1) preparation of guidelines containing criteria for ALP project applications; 2) formulation of ALP projects and 3) identification of potential and real sponsors.

The Programme registered at present about 50 applications for ALP projects, reviewed them with IFLA regional bodies, and submitted some of them for the consideration of sponsoring organizations.

The continuation and development of the Core Programmes in the past 2 years was possible because of the generous support IFLA received from different organizations, notably from the national libraries, Unesco, and different foundations such as SIDA and CLR. SIDA, for example, permitted us to start the ALP Programme, and CLR provided funds for establishment of a 3-year Robert Vosper Fellows Programme, for outstanding librarians willing to develop projects within the framework of the Core Programmes.

All these valuable contributions, however, were not sufficient to cover the expenses of the growing Core Programmes and to meet the expectations of the library community. Therefore I should acknowledge with satisfaction that the Executive Board, when reviewing the budget for 1991, agreed to add a line item of NLG 40,000 for the Core Programmes to enable them to carry out project proposals which could not be funded from their extrabudgetary funds.

The presentation of this report creates an opportunity for me to express some views on the possible future development of the Federation. I am in full agreement with the statements made in IFLA's Long Term Policy that the Federation will lead the world library movement in the development of the library profession for the needs of contemporary society. IFLA will also play an important, if not a central, role in the improvement of access to and availability of information as well as promoting the application of new information technology to all internal and external library processes. Finally, the Federation will actively contribute to the new cultural and social role of libraries within the user community.

I am convinced that IFLA's Core Programmes will remain the intellectual driving force of the Federation to reach the Federation's goals.

I would also like to express my sincere thanks to all sponsors and colleagues who contributed intellectually, financially or in kind, directly or through the PMC, to the development of the IFLA Core Programmes.

ALP

The Medium-Term Programme 1992-1997 of IFLA's Core Programme for the Advancement of Librarianship in the Third World (ALP) by Birgitta Bergdahl, ALP Project Manager

The Medium-Term Programme for IFLA's Core Programme on the Advancement of Librarianship in the Third World - ALP - was presented to the membership of IFLA at the conference in Stockholm last year as part of my proposal for the future development of ALP. But as a matter of course the programme contents have become much more clear since then and in this presentation I would therefore like to give you an updated and more concrete description of some important programme areas. I also want to bring up some questions of importance for the further development of ALP: the necessity to match levels of ambition with available resources and the necessity to develop the regional infrastructure. But first let me start by refreshing your memory of the Programme's concept, objectives and orientation and comment on some of those from today's perspective.

Programme Concept

The purpose of IFLA's Core Programme for the Advancement of Librarianship in the Third World is apparent from its name - to further the library profession, library institutions and library and information services in the less developed countries.

It thus spans a wide spectrum of IFLA's activities and should play an important role within the organization as a catalyst for its Third World activities, but it also has a programme identity of its own which is concentrated on issues which are of vital importance for the developing countries and do not fall within the responsibility of the other Core Programmes. For the next medium term period these have been identified as education and training, library and information services to the general public and a greater involvement of librarians with literacy programmes.

Programme Objectives

The objectives of ALP are to promote the progressive improvement of library and information services in the developing countries, so as to enable them to play an active role in national development. Special emphasis will be placed on the creation of conditions likely to contribute towards national initiatives and systematic progress towards self-sufficiency.

Programme Orientation

The main orientation of the Programme is to support librarians in the developing countries in their efforts to improve library and information services.

The Programme should encourage national and regional library organizations and explore the ways and means of promoting practical and meaningful relations between IFLA and these organizations.

ALP will also take an active part in the coordination of international efforts to support the development of library and information services in Third World countries by cooperating with other organizations (such as Unesco, FID, IBBY, reading promotion organizations, and development authorities).

State-of-the-art comments

Both the programme concept and orientation imply cooperation with other partners, both within and outside of IFLA. The development of the special ALP areas requires close cooperation with IFLA's Division for Libraries Serving the General Public and the Division for Education and Research and cooperative activities are now being planned with the Sections for Education and Training, Libraries for the Blind, and Public Libraries, and others will hopefully follow in the years to come.

The discussions which I have had with the ALP Regional Advisory Committees in 1991 have further underlined how important it would be to give support to library associations in many countries. Actually, both in Africa and in Asia and Oceania assistance to national library associations will be important areas of activity.

The Programme will gradually build up contacts with international, regional and sub-regional library organizations, and for a start contacts have been made with COMLA, CONSAL, and the Regional Association of Public Libraries in Latin America.

When it comes to developing contacts with other regional organizations the experiences from the latest project period have indicated that it is especially important and beneficial to develop such contacts in the region. The best way of achieving this is to arrange joint projects and activities.

Cooperation with other Core Programmes and Divisions will be built up gradually, but I hope that one of the major events during the next MTP will be a joint ALP/PAC Pan-African Conference on the Preservation of Library and Archival Material, which is now in a planning stage. It will be necessary to space such major cooperative events between Core Programmes in time for resources reasons, but it would in my opinion be desirable for ALP to try to achieve something together also with the UAP Programme during the coming MTP. ALP will be an active cooperative partner for the Sections and Round Tables and has already supported the Section on Statistics with some funds for its Latin American Seminar which was held in Mexico in July this year.

Work Plan and Goals

Major problem areas for ALP have already been identified, and some strategies have been formulated to address them. Projects and other activities will gradually be developed in accordance with these strategies. More than 20 different projects and other activities have already been recommended by the Regional Advisory Committees and some of these have started or can start soon. But the scope of activity will be limited by existing resources - by what IFLA as a professional organization can do and of course also by the availability of external funding. But the scarcest resource seems to be the human resource. Therefore, the work plan must be built out very carefully, step by step, as resources become available and

the necessary infrastructure develops, to form a series of well planned, long term activities in each region. The Regional Offices and the ALP Regional Advisory Committees will be the cornerstones of this infrastructure and must have the necessary means for functioning, but there is a need to build out the human networks even more. More representatives from the regions should be able to participate in IFLA's work. ALP is totally dependent on such participation - its work programme will always be the sum of the human beings contributing to it. At the start, the Programme will concentrate on some more short term and acute projects of importance to the regions which are easy to start and monitor and for which the necessary infrastructure already exists in term of competent persons and institutions. The Programme will also have to respond initiatives of both a short term and long term nature by other IFLA bodies and other organizations.

So, while improvising when necessary, ALP will keep a steady course towards its goals which are:

a. **To assist library staff, library schools and library associations in education and training programmes**

There is an almost endless need for education and training in the developing countries. ALP will concentrate above all on continuing education and in areas where the need is the greatest. New technology and preservation are current fields of interest. But there is a great need for basic training also for those who work with library and information services in rural areas and have no library education. Scholarships are needed both for people who need training in specific aspects of librarianship and for people who need to complete a basic library education.

This is a wide programme area which should be developed gradually. Activities which are now already planned are a series of workshops in Africa in microcomputer applications; and in Asia ALP will fund a number of scholarships for librarians from the least developed countries to attend the Asian Institute of Technology. The joint PAC/ALP Seminar in Africa mentioned earlier will also bring up training needs. A very good idea has been developed in Asia and Oceania which the programme will support financially - in service training "attachments" for junior or senior staff under 40 years of age in libraries which have a state of the art knowledge in special areas. This signifies a very important contribution to the programme from libraries in the region. This idea might be developed also in Latin America. The Section on Education and Training has proposed a seminar for Latin America and the Caribbean.

There is a need for better knowledge about professional competence in the regions. As it is today the library and information resources in the Third World are often less well known than those in the industrialized countries - foreign experts are used because of lack of knowledge about national competence. Therefore, ALP will contribute to the construction of referral databases or databanks with information about libraries, librarians and library education in the developing countries.

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A publications programme will be started. Library schools all over the world need to give their students access to literature in relevant languages. A first translation job has started for the Francophone countries. There is also a manifest need to improve access to library literature, through subventions, perhaps via the Regional Offices. The regional newsletters are important vehicles for IFLA information and should be given strong support. A bilingual African library journal is in a preparatory stage.

b. **To promote the establishment and development of library and information services to the public with particular attention to the needs of rural and urban marginal areas**

The situation and thus also the priorities are different in the three regions in this programme sphere. In Latin America there exist some very well developed public library systems but there is also a very great interest and need to complement these with alternative library and information systems to reach new groups of users in urban marginal areas and in remote border areas, and to meet the needs of minority cultures. Projects and training activities will be developed to meet these needs. A seminar on library services to the visually handicapped for the whole region will be planned in cooperation with the Section of Libraries for the Blind.

Development of library and information services in remote rural areas but also in urban marginal areas are to be the focus in the MTP for Africa. Projects concerning so-called community information centres will be supported. In this field cooperation will take place with other IFLA bodies but also with COMLA and Unesco and others. There are demands for a conference which could describe the state of the art of these developments and draw up guidelines for future work.

In Asia this programme area will mainly be developed through a series of educational activities. The first event will take place in the fall.

c. **To encourage a greater involvement and identification of libraries with literacy work**

Literacy work was identified as a programme area of great importance in the preliminary medium term programme and the strong arguments for this were clarified, but the work plan was not very detailed. The reason is very simple - literacy work is to a degree something of a terra incognita for librarians - we know very little about what libraries have meant or could mean in literacy and post literacy processes, and we also know little about methodology. After this year's discussions in the regions the work plan is much more clear. A double approach will be used which implies encouraging some projects which represent different aspects of the complex issue, and initiating research and development. Two pilot projects will aim at librarians, one a continuation of the African IFLA-Unesco seminar to develop librarians' knowledge and understanding of illiteracy as a basis for reading promotion activities, and one in Thailand and Laos where librarians will work with writers, illustrators and publishers to produce children's books. Libraries are in focus in two other project proposals, one investigating libraries as resources centres which can acquire, register, make known and to a certain extent produce appropriate material for new readers, and the other one concerning the efforts to reach minority cultures, especially women and children with reading material and information services.

I would like to conclude by underlining once more that the success of ALP depends on human beings. The ambitious goals of the programme can only be achieved in cooperation with many forces. The International Focal Point will support this cooperation and be a knowledge centre. But the programme needs support from all IFLA members, and I hope that library associations and institutions will adopt and support some activities and that the twinning idea will be developed. In short I expect a lot of cooperation for the ALP Programme from all of you!

FINANCES

Report to Council 1991 on IFLA's Accounts for 1989-1991 and Budget Forecasts 1991-1992 by Marcelle Beaudiquez, Treasurer

[Note: The text below is the English translation provided by Winston Roberts, of the Treasurer's Report, written and presented in French.]

In presenting the Federation's accounts for 1989 and 1990 and the budget forecasts for 1991 and 1992, I am not going to say (as is sometimes said) that this exercise is dangerous for the speaker and not pleasant for the audience.

It is not dangerous for me as the IFLA accounts are public: the detail of the accounts is available for consultation in the Secretariat and the summaries of the accounts for 1989 and 1990 have been published respectively in *IFLA Journal* no. 2 in 1990 and no. 2 in 1991. I have no doubt that you have already read them with all the attention that they deserve. The exercise should not be off-putting for you, as one has the right to inform oneself about the management and use of funds of an organization of which one is a member. However it is my job to make these columns of figures more comprehensible, and that is what I shall try to do.

1. Accounts for 1989 and 1990

The general annual budget of the Federation (not including the Core Programmes) has gone from NLG 1,043,000 in 1988 to NLG 1,223,000 in 1990. the capital and reserves increased by NLG 36,000 in 1989 but fell by nearly NLG 40,000 in 1990.

On the basis of these figures, I would say that the financial situation of IFLA is at one and the same time healthy and delicate. It is healthy because we are not eating into the capital and because if our reserves are diminishing it is because they were built up to provide for heavy and targeted expenditure made in 1989 and 1990 (such as the development of automation of the Federation's Secretariat). But the financial situation is delicate, since expenditure in 1990 exceeded income and we are not at present able to build up the reserves again to cope with large and unforeseen expenses.

It is not necessary here to go into the details of the accounts, but rather to examine their results and especially on three points:

- membership subscriptions and general subventions, on the income side;
- services to members, on the expenditure side;
- publications, on both the income and expenditure sides.

1.1 Membership subscriptions and subventions

When I became Treasurer of IFLA in 1989, Tony Evans, my predecessor in this post, had voted unanimously an increase in membership subscriptions which was supposed to consolidate the budget of IFLA for several years, and it is a fact that this budget head is increasing. However, some of these increases were to be progressive to avoid subscription

increases higher than 20% per year, and moreover some members seem to have voted without protest for an increase that they did not have the means to pay for regularly! That is why, if after the Brighton Conference in 1987, it was easy to calculate the supplementary revenue really brought in by the increase in subscriptions for institution members, the same is not true for that of association members; the proportion of revenue not realized due to non-payment of subscription increases every year (from - NLG 52,000 in 1989 to - NLG 92,000 in 1990). These figures should make us stop and think, because it is not always the poorest who do not pay or who pay late.

Under the heading "General Subventions", that is, those which apply to the operating budget and not only to certain aspects of the professional budget, the share of the Dutch Ministry of Education (NLG 35,000) shows stability for which we must be grateful, whereas the Unesco subvention has unfortunately fallen noticeably because of the unfavorable exchange rate of the US dollar to the Dutch guilder.

1.2 Services to members

This is the *raison d'etre* of the Federation; so it is vital to know the share of expenditure represented by these services in relation to the actual management of the Federation. But we must agree on what we consider to be expenditure on services to members. We may include in these services the budget of headings such as "conferences and meetings", "professional programmes", "free publications to members": if we do, then the services to members represented 37.60% of expenditure in 1988, 38.61% in 1989 and 39.46% in 1990, which gives us the same percentage as 10 years ago (40% for services to members in the Treasurer's Report for 1981) when IFLA had only 1101 members rather than the 1305 of 1990. Therefore the management of IFLA is expensive. However, we may also consider that all that concerns the Professional Coordinator and his travel also comes under "services to members"... And in that case the percentage would be higher than 50%. We must therefore put these figures in perspective, and make an overall judgment on the level and quality of services provided by IFLA which go beyond the mere supplying of material services and constitute permanent representation of the profession.

1.3 Publications

The heading "Publications" in the chapter "Expenditure" of IFLA is very expensive: it represents the cost of production of documents distributed free to members (IFLA Directory, IFLA Annual, Statutes, Medium-Term Programme... and soon, in fulfillment of a resolution of the Section on Bibliography, IFLA Communications), and that of the Federation's promotional and publicity brochures (such as Facts and Features, the Core Programme brochure, the ALP brochure, Trends,...). This is an important area of the life of the Federation and must not be cut.

The income linked to publications is five times less than the average expenditure and it is this budget head which must be increased. Note however that efforts to correct the situation have already been made, since this income has increased by 70% in two years.

1.4 Outside the general budget, it should be noted:

- that the subventions devoted to projects and seminars have increased, but that IFLA ensures that they are used efficiently, thanks to the professional librarians who carry out the corresponding professional activities;

- that the Margreet Wijnstroom Fund played its role fully in 1990 in spending more than NLG 100,000 to help colleagues from the Third World to take part in international activities.

1.5 A few words also about the accounts of the Core Programmes. In 1988, the annual balance had increased by more than NLG 47,000; but in 1989 and 1990 it fell by NLG 68,000 and NLG 64,000 respectively. If the contributions of national libraries have been more or less stable over the same period, we should nevertheless note that these subventions are often paid late and must be managed over two budget years, which does not make the planning of work easier. It is to answer a request of CDNL and thereby to support the structural changes to be put to a Council vote that the Executive Board has injected NLG 40,000 of IFLA general funds into the budget of the Core Programmes in 1991, a gesture which cannot be repeated due to lack of resources.

To sum up, the 1989 accounts showed a surplus. Those of 1990 show a deficit. A comparison of the data shows three main reasons for this deficit:

- a decrease of NLG 20,000 in the Unesco subvention as already explained;
- an increase of NLG 50,000 in the cost of publications, as several of them have been produced in new editions, which is a non-recurring cost;
- an increase of NLG 40,000 in Headquarters costs, which should be stabilized in the next few years thanks partly to the completion of automation.

The financial results of IFLA are presented to you after audit by the firm of Moret Ernst and Young; and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their efficiency and courtesy.

2. Budget Forecasts for 1991-1992

The budget proposals for 1991-1992 are balanced and realistic. "The figures speak for themselves", as the saying goes. However, if you will permit me, I would like to add a few even more realistic comments.

IFLA is developing. Its international credibility and audience are very strong. We may all appreciate the voluntary work of the Sections as much as the contractual achievements of the Core Programmes.

How can the Federation have the financial means to match its ambitions? (We should note moreover that if it does not have these means, it will necessarily have to limit its ambitions to match its means!)

Throughout history all Treasurers have answered this question in the same way: revenue must be increased and costs must be brought down.

2.1 How can revenue be increased?

- Under the heading "Membership Fees", these will not be raised; we can try to bring in fees more effectively, in terms of quantity and deadlines. So that IFLA can be rapidly informed of its actual resources and can utilize them better, it would be helpful to have all subscriptions paid in the first half of the year to which they relate: Headquarters does its best to ensure this but it is up to each member to cooperate.

- To increase revenue, one may also increase the number of members: IFLA has not yet enrolled all (national) associations, and moreover, in the context of current political developments, we should be pleased to welcome the new young associations of countries undergoing renewal. It is up to us to prove to them that we are capable of meeting their needs. The "sustaining affiliate" scheme has not been very successful, and we currently have only four members in that category; but it is no doubt still possible to convince a few large firms to take an interest in our profession. In contrast, it is certain that there is a lot to be done in the area of institutional membership. The number of institution members (941 in 1991) could be increased, as for most of the time the IFLA membership fee represents for them only the price of a periodical subscription.

- Under the heading "Sale of Publications", I have already emphasized the job that needs to be done. The new Publications Committee, in its report to Council, will not fail to note all the proposals in this direction.

2.2 How to cut costs?

This is the dream of all treasurers, one which is hard to achieve. The budget forecasts for 1991 and 1992, as you can see, emphasize continuity, which means a relative fall in expenditure, and it would not be realistic to hope for more, except occasionally.

This is why, since it is difficult to reduce expenditure, and since the main investment in equipment has already been made, we must try within a given budget envelope to use our money better either by developing services rendered on the basis of the level of funding or by allocating funding in a more logical way. Thus a certain percentage of subventions from sources outside IFLA and earmarked for a specific contract or professional project will be deducted as administrative costs to defray expenses incurred by the Secretariat in relation to the contract or project - expenses which until now weighed heavily in the operating budget with no resources allocated to them.

It is often these "invisible savings" which are the sign of healthy financial management. That which is true for the administrative budget is also true for the professional budget. Thus the Professional Board and the Professional Coordinator have worked this year to improve the use of funds allocated to the professional programmes, with as a first consequence stronger and more rational project planning.

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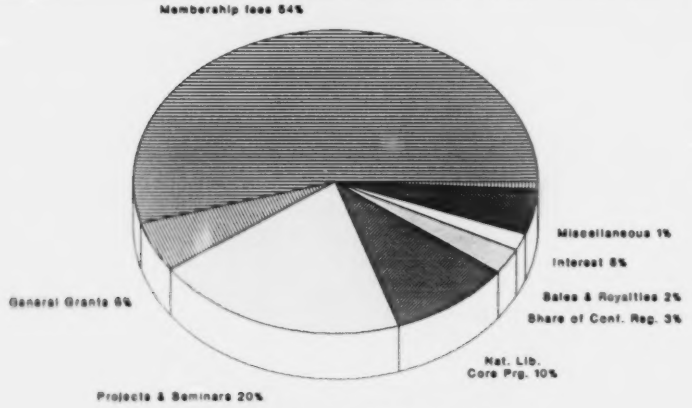
Conclusion

Moliere (in "Les Femmmes Savantes") said that "Money is the key to all great projects" ("Que l'argent est la clef de tous les grands ressorts"). It is up to all of you to make the best possible use of it in the professional expenditure leading to achievements which are the "shop-window" of our Federation. However, the more invisible day-to-day management is just as fundamental, and in conclusion I would like to thank our Secretary General, Paul Nauta, for carrying this out wisely and effectively.

FINANCES IN PERCENTAGES

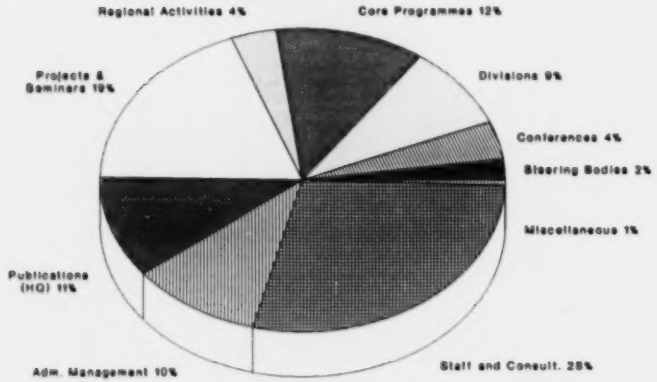
Compilation: IFLA HQ

Income
1990



Total Income 1990 NLG 1,740,400

Expenditure
1990



Total Expenditure 1990 NLG 1,831,000

IFLA'S LONG TERM POLICY

This Long Term Policy was developed by the IFLA Executive Board. The text below was officially approved on 10 April 1991 for submission to Council in August 1991.

1. Introduction

1.1 IFLA's Role and Mission

IFLA is an independent professional international federation, without profit motive whose purpose is to promote international understanding, cooperation, discussion, research and development in all fields of library activity, including bibliography, information services, document delivery, and the education of personnel. As a non-governmental organization IFLA provides a body through which worldwide librarianship can be represented in matters of international interest. In pursuing its objectives, IFLA supports the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that "everyone has the right to participate freely in the culture of the community, to enjoy the arts, and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits" (Art. 27).

In fulfilling its mission, the Federation focuses its attention on

- broadening access to and availability of information to users worldwide
- stimulating the development of the profession
- supporting the growth and expansion of libraries
- extending the range and variety of information resources available through libraries.

1.2 IFLA's Long Term Policy

IFLA's Long Term Policy aims to support the role and mission of the Federation: to advance the leadership role of its members for the benefit of society and to create a visionary framework for the development of the library profession.

The international library profession requires a clear indication for future action, a strategic plan to ensure that the profession knows where it is going and why.

IFLA's Long Term Policy is formulated both for its members as well as for the Federation itself to enable them to establish its strategy, plans and programmes that affect the next 10 to 15 years. IFLA's operational plans, based on Long Term Policy, are reflected in its Medium-Term Programme.

The Long Term Policy is based on the assumption that the library profession has common goals throughout the entire community; the level of its development may differ from region to region and from country to country because libraries and librarians operate in specific and distinct social, economic and political environments. There are, however, common concerns which all professionals and institutions share. IFLA's Long Term Policy focuses on such concerns while allowing varying methods of implementation, depending on local circumstances.

The purpose of this document is to enumerate the different issues which call for a policy response.

2. Role of Libraries

Libraries, as major components of the information field, have witnessed major changes during the past two decades. Information has become one of the key elements in contemporary social and economic life. The increasing involvement of the information industry, including publishers and brokers in information processing and document delivery, as well as the application of modern information technology and telecommunications has created a new information environment in which libraries are one of the multiple partners in the information transfer chain. Library institutions must provide facilities for all users to access their collections both through traditional and electronic media for all users, thus remaining the primary source of information.

Libraries also have a central role in society as cultural and educational institutions, and as agents for promoting literacy. IFLA considers books and libraries, as well as the promotion of the reading habit, essential for better international understanding, and as such they are a fundamental precondition for peace, human rights, literacy, intellectual freedom, and a better environment for all peoples.

3. General Policy Issues

The monitoring of the library profession worldwide as well as observations of trends which forecast the nature and function of libraries in the coming decades have resulted in the following list of issues which require policy consideration:

- the role of libraries in the cultural and social dimension of society including their mission in the fight against illiteracy
- provide and protect the right of every individual to have access to needed information
- strengthening the ability of the individual to make mature, responsible decisions
- the development of libraries in order to bridge the information gap between the information rich and the information poor
- intellectual freedom including the protection of library materials and personnel from censorship
- the growth of the worldwide information market and the recognition of information as a commodity
- the improvement of the status of the profession, including education and professional development: rights and obligations of library personnel; and the development of effective professional associations
- IFLA's leading and catalytic role among library institutions and associations

- influencing the development and application of new information technology and telecommunications, especially those information tools, technologies and standards which assist librarians in providing services responsive to changing needs.

The above-mentioned policy issues can be grouped under four headings which form the main subjects of IFLA's Long Term Policy:

- Promotion of the cultural, educational, and social role of libraries in society
- Improvement of access to and availability of information
- Enhancement of the library profession
- Influencing the development and application of information technology and telecommunications.

These topics are considered below.

4. Cultural, Educational and Social Role

Libraries are considered the historical and cultural memory of society, preserving accumulated knowledge for future generations. Using modern information and audiovisual technologies, libraries are able to preserve written and oral traditions and literary expressions in both the book and other information media and protect the originality of each culture by strengthening its cultural identity.

Libraries are generally recognized as educational and cultural institutions and are the main material resources for training and education. Similarly, libraries function as information and cultural centres, and, apart from their traditional library activities, organize exhibitions, conferences, concerts, etc. for their communities.

In addition to these roles, libraries are evolving towards a new and expanded role within society. The opportunities offered by the new information technologies and by socio-economic changes in the information market call for a redefinition of the role of libraries and librarians. It is a duty of the Federation to provide guidance on what libraries should do and how they can best serve their users.

IFLA's Long Term Policy will

- continue to ensure that the cultural heritage of all societies is preserved and maintained;
- expand the role and recognition of libraries as educational and cultural centres;
- assist libraries, in addition to their information provision functions, to assume a commitment to continuing education by their involvement in open and distance education such as community resource centres providing access to electronic education networks;
- encourage the expansion of the social role of libraries by developing community information services which assist individuals and groups in daily problem solving.

5. Improvement of Access to and Availability of Information

One of the "raisons d'être" of library institutions is to develop, exploit, and preserve library collections on which reference, bibliographic, document supply, and other services are based;and provide cultural and educative information for decision-making, for the benefit of present and future users. In translating these general aims into practice, the main functions of libraries, in this respect, - individually and cooperatively - are:

- to create and provide access to bibliographic records
- to provide the fullest possible range of information, and
- to ensure the availability of library materials, both local and foreign.

Access to information and the availability of documents, in practice, encounter several barriers and restrictions. Some works are confidential, some publications by their nature (old or fragile) have restricted availability. There are, however, numerous obstacles to availability other than those intrinsic to the publications themselves, such as:

- economic: shortage of acquisition funds, lack of hard currency, etc.
- social and educational: inadequate education, lack of motivation, social conditioning, etc.
- physical: rural areas, small towns, handicapped users, etc.
- legal: too restrictive copyright.

In its Long Term Policy IFLA will undertake and promote continuing actions aiming at the improvement of access to information and the availability of publications, and especially will:

- encourage its members to establish and maintain bibliographic leadership by supplying bibliographic records for library and information service communities;
- promote the development and application of international bibliographic standards, e.g., for machine-readable formats, encouraging international cooperation in this field through the establishment of international networks of bibliographic agencies;
- encourage libraries to play a leading role in public document supply, both at national and international levels, through conventional and electronic document delivery and interlending and broad cooperation with other partners in the information market;
- contribute to the reduction of existing barriers in access to information and availability of documents, while respecting the principles of copyright.

6. Enhancement of the Library Profession

The library profession is involved, with other professions, in activities which are dramatically changing the image of contemporary society and contributing to the development of an "information society".

The ongoing and forthcoming changes in the information environment and the new social and cultural role of libraries require that the library profession take on the challenge of promoting literacy, managing new information technologies, and functioning in an educational role. These changes have also opened new possibilities and opportunities for librarians and call for major modifications and broadening of professional skills and abilities. Librarians, first of

all, should widen their professional horizons. They should accept the fact that librarians do not have a monopoly on the concern for information and that the future interest of our profession depends not on protecting our sphere of interest, but on the active role librarians will play on the information scene. For this purpose the library profession must expand career opportunities for librarians and modify accordingly the training and education facilities, while bearing in mind that the quality and reputation of library services depends to a large extent on the development of qualified staff.

An essential role in the improvement of the library profession is played by library associations, whose objectives are, among other things, the improvement of the knowledge, skills, status, and qualifications of librarians, as well as the promotion of adequate and appropriate library services in cooperation with the institutions involved. Library associations develop or assist with the provision of education and training, provide continuing professional development opportunities, and work toward the improvement of the status and conditions of service of librarians, and the promotion of equal opportunities policies.

IFLA embraces associations and institutions of different political, social and economic background and at different levels of development. The diversity of its membership presumes a wide range of interests that are not always compatible. IFLA's essential role is to provide leadership to the entire profession and to enhance the role of libraries in society.
IFLA's Long Term Policy in the field of the development of the library profession will concentrate on:

- promotion and encouragement of professional training and education at national and international levels with particular attention to subject specialization, management and information technology skills;
- encouragement of the maintenance and development of skills to ensure that librarians themselves can undertake research work and become associated with the community of learned societies;
- encouragement of the development of library associations as contributors to the improvement of professional skills and conduct of librarians, and an understanding of the social responsibility of the profession;
- encouragement of individual library associations to adopt and promote codes of professional conduct and adherence to them;
- active cooperation with other partners in the information market to ensure the leading role of the library profession in public access to and availability of information;
- promotion of the improvement of the status of the library profession through better library services and products and through an active role of librarians in the social, cultural and educative process in society.

7. Development and Application of New Information Technology

Information technology and telecommunications have an essential impact on information products and library services and have the potential to change the entire nature of information services and greatly increase their range. The suppliers of electronic information services have changed the means of information transfer and extended its distribution beyond libraries. To them, traditional libraries may not compare, as a market, to the prospect of selling information directly to homes and offices. In addition to the traditional storage media,

there has been increased development of computer storage technologies such as optical disc technology. Major improvements are also taking place in the speed and reliability of telecommunication facilities through electronic network development, satellite transmission, and the integration of voice and data systems.

Information technology has stimulated the development of electronic publishing and the creation of integrated systems embracing the printing, publishing and distribution chain, as well as multimedia companies from book publishing to online information and satellite broadcasting. Technology and the information industry are rapidly changing the international competitive information market. The implications of these changes for the library world are important.

Library institutions which have historically been responsible for providing access to printed information must adapt to new requirements and provide access to electronic media or they will be replaced by others as a primary source of information. New and expanded functions should include: access to electronic databases, online access to library resources, electronic referrals, access to resources in other libraries via networking, while continuing to provide access to electronic resources for those who cannot afford direct home or business access.

IFLA's Long Term Policy in this respect will focus on:

- continued monitoring and encouragement of the development of information technology, especially that having direct or potential impact on library services, products and management;
- promotion of the effective application of new information technology in the library profession to ensure the essential role of the library as information provider and supplier;
- ensuring the participation of library institutions in the elaboration of international technical standards, protocols, etc., relevant to library practice.